

«The analysis of the impact would have been beneficial before negotiating the Agreement»

Concòrdia, Democrats and PS value the results presented in the AR+I report

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The Concòrdia, Democrats and Social Democrats parliamentary groups assessed the results presented by Andorra Research and Innovation (AR+I), who presented a report last Tuesday on the impact that the Agreement could have on the country's economy association with the EU. The study, which covers a 25-year perspective (from 2025 to 2050).

In the responses, the political formations expressed their views on the results presented, the methodology used and the sectors that could experience an initial slowdown. The president of the Concòrdia parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, indicated that «it is always crucial to analyze in detail an Agreement that will have such a profound impact on our country». However, Escalé underlined a fundamental concern: «It is important to note that the impact

study is carried out once the Agreement is already essentially negotiated», stressing that it would have been beneficial «to have this assessment during the negotiations to ensure that decisions could be more informed and optimize the benefits for Andorra».

For his part, the president of the Democrats parliamentary group, Jordi Jordana, highlighted the results positively. «The assessment is positive. We were already convinced, and the report reinforces our opinion that the Agreement will imply positive growth for the country», he stated. Jordana also praised the objective methodology based on comparative data, indicating that «the objective and neutral approach of the report gives us a clear view of the potential benefits of the agreement».

In a similar vein, the president of the Social Democratic parliamentary group, Pere Baró, expressed himself, who also evaluated the report favora-



The Concòrdia parliamentary group, on Tuesday at the General Council during the presentation of the AR+I report.

Escalé points out that the study presented was carried out when the text was already almost negotiated

bly. «We are very satisfied because the study seems to give us the reason that the Agreement can be positive for the country», he said. Baró pointed out that the data show that the text negotiated with the EU would improve the economy, even considering a 'status quo' scenario. «This shows that the no arguments are not being closed with the arguments presented in the

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report», he added.

Regarding the specific results that the Knowledge Sharing Network (KSNET) consultancy has used to carry out the study, Concòrdia commented on long-term economic growth projections. «The study indicates a 5% growth in economic potential in 25 years, with a particular focus on already established sectors such as construction, the banking sector and real estate». This, according to the group, raises a crucial question for the country: «We must reflect on whether this growth model, concentrated in these sectors, is the most suitable for our economy in the long term, especially considering the expected impact on the population with the Agreement», specified Escalé.

Jordana, on the other hand, valued the decision to base the study on a current 'status quo' scenario. «They have chosen not to make future hypotheses, but to base themselves on the current situation. This gives a reliable and objective aspect to the study», he commented. In addition, the president of the parliamentary group highlighted the importance of «neutrality in the evaluation», stressing that «the two scenarios analyzed show prudent positions, and this allows us to have a clearer vision of what could happen».

For his part, Baró agreed on



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the importance of working with known data: «Working with a 'status quo' scenario is the best thing to do when future policies or governments are not known», he explained. Baró emphasized

the reliability of the study, stating that «this shows that the Agreement is more beneficial even in the worst case».

Regarding the opinions on the sectors that show a slowdown during the first years in a supposed scenario of Agreement, Escalé expressed concern about the expected slowdown in key sectors such as education, health activities and public administration during the first years after the implementation of the text. «It is worrying to see that these sectors could experience a slowdown, especially for liberal professionals and in the educational and health fields».

Jordana, on the other hand, pointed out that «these questions depend more on an internal perspective of the country». He suggested that in the health sector, for example, there is a State Pact that includes measures to improve it. Even so, the president of DA indicated that it will be necessary to «analyze the report in more detail» to see how these sectors could be affected and what accompanying measures could be implemented.

A fact that Baró distanced himself from and pointed to the need for investment in these sectors to avoid a slowdown. «What will have to be done is to invest a lot in education, health and civil service», he concluded.●

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